

REMARKS

The specification has been amended so that the language of the specification clearly matches that of the claims.

Claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 15 which is believed to be proper as to form and clearly patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by KIRCHHOFFER et al. 6,086,567.

The applied reference discloses an injection device in which a dose is set by rotating a dosing sleeve 6 at the back end of the device. The dosing sleeve 6 is connected to a stepped element 13 which sets an adjustable end limit for an advancing sleeve 5 which is connected to the syringe plunger 4 by a ratchet mechanism. In operation, a user dials in the required dose on the dose setting sleeve which allows the advancing sleeve 5 to be pulled back the prerequisite amount whilst the plunger remains fixed. The dose is then administered manually by pushing the advancing sleeve back in, pushing the plunger with it. The advancing sleeve also has a scale (Figure 3) which is exposed progressively as the advancing sleeve is pulled out with the aim being that a discrepancy between the dialed in dose and that shown on the scale indicates that the ampoule contains only enough for a partial dose.

Neither scale gives a read-out of the number of doses that have been administered by the injection device.

Thus, KIRCHHOFER et al. do not show a dose application counter; we cannot see that the KIRCHHOFER et al. has any "lost motion connection" (the closest seems to be the ratchet mechanism between the advancing sleeve 5 and the plunger 4 but this is not a lost motion connection); there is no equivalent to the dose setting element causing the counter to move to a set increment or extent, and no indication of accumulated usage of the injection device.

As new claim 15 clearly brings out these distinctions with ample particularity, it is believed that it is patentable, and with it the claims that depend therefrom, that is, all the rest of the claims in the case.

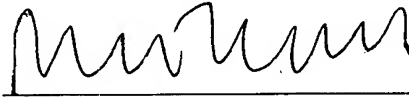
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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